

## NOTES ON A COLLECTION OF BUTTERFLIES FROM THE ISLANDS OF THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, QUEENSLAND

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The published records of butterflies from the Great Barrier Reef islands are scattered. Lists have been compiled for Hinchinbrook Island (Reeves, 1978), North-West Island (Musgrave, 1926; Reeves, 1969), Heron Island (Chadwick, 1963; Fletcher, 1973), Erskine Island (Reeves, 1971), Masthead Island (Turner, 1934; Hacker, 1975) and Hoskyn Island (Reeves, 1973). Casual records can be found in Banfield (1908; 1911), Barrett & Burns (1951), Borch (1926), Butcher (1937), Carpenter (1953), Common & Waterhouse (1981), Heatwold *et al.* (1981), McNeill (1937), Peters (1969), Reeves (1979), Smithers (1983), Stephenson, Stephenson and Tandy (1931), Waterhouse (1932, 1934) and Waterhouse and Lyell (1914). From 1978-1984, one of us (J.M.) collected butterflies from a number of Great Barrier Reef islands including several for which there are apparently no records. These records are summarized in Tables 1 and 2 together with a listing of those species previously recorded.

The northern-most island on which McLean made his collections was Lizard Island, north of Cooktown. South of Lizard Island, at least one island from most of the island groups has been sampled. Islands were sometimes visited more than once but seasonal samplings were not undertaken. The southern-most island collected was Lady Musgrave Island.

In Tables 1 and 2, islands are listed in geographical groupings from north to south. The species are named and the list arranged systematically as in Common and Waterhouse (1981). Butterflies have been recorded from Great Barrier Reef islands as far north as Stanley Island in the Flinders Group, NW of Cape Melville. The islands of Torres Strait are not included in this paper. No differentiation has been made between continental and coral cay islands. The ecology of the different island types would have to be fully studied in terms of host plant availability. This has not been undertaken at the present time.

All specimens taken by McLean are housed in the Australian Museum.

It is hoped that this paper will encourage and assist other collectors to publish their records from these and other islands to help fill the gaps in our knowledge of island faunas.

### Acknowledgement

We thank Dr C. N. Smithers and Mr M. S. Moulds for support and help in the preparation of this paper.









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